

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

June 30, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to youth involvement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 40, as introduced, Chesbro. Youth involvement.

This measure would encourage the Legislature to support programs that address problem behaviors in high-risk youth. The measure would, in addition, encourage the Legislature to establish an annual day of recognition for those entities that have successfully developed youth participation and involvement programs, and for the youth who participate in those programs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Over the next two to five years, many counties in
- 2 California will experience a 25 to 40 percent increase in their youth
- 3 and young adult populations; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Professionally evaluated studies of youth
- 5 development programs have documented direct behavioral
- 6 changes relating to reductions in problem behaviors in high-risk
- 7 youth, improvements in positive self-esteem and self-confidence,
- 8 greater senses of competence and control among vulnerable youth,
- 9 improvements in personal and social skills development, greater
- 10 success in academic achievement, and documented clarification of
- 11 academic and career goals; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Over 50 California city, county, and school
- 13 governing and advisory boards and commissions include youth in



1 local policy and budget decisions, thus engaging those youth in
2 local and regional decisionmaking and programs; and

3 WHEREAS, State budgetary and policy decisions have a
4 significant impact on the type and quality of state programs that
5 serve youth; and

6 WHEREAS, Many legislators and state departments support
7 programs and services that focus on building and reinforcing
8 personal and community asset development as successful
9 prevention and early intervention strategies; and

10 WHEREAS, An essential element of creating effective and
11 efficient asset-based prevention and early intervention strategies
12 is to include youth in the process of creating, implementing, and
13 managing the programs that serve them; and

14 WHEREAS, Many cities, counties, and school districts are
15 effectively using youth development strategies and should be
16 supported to achieve the full benefits of these efforts; and

17 WHEREAS, The evidence is overwhelming that programs
18 utilizing youth development strategies and asset-based prevention
19 and early intervention strategies result in improved personal and
20 community change; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring,* That the state should support programs and
23 prevention and early intervention services that address problem
24 behaviors in youth before those youth become more difficult and
25 costly; and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Legislature should solicit advice from youth
27 about budgetary and policy proposals that impact those youth; and
28 be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Legislature should determine youth
30 involvement opportunities and link those opportunities to existing
31 local government, school, and state programs that promote
32 voluntary civic and community service; and be it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourage individual Members
34 of the Legislature to include local youth in their policy-making
35 efforts; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourage schools and
37 community programs to take affirmative steps to ensure that real
38 opportunities exist for including youth in their planning and
39 implementation efforts; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature establish an annual day of
2 recognition to honor and affirm the programs, services,
3 policymakers, and local governmental or educational entities that
4 have successfully developed youth participation and involvement
5 programs, and the youth who contribute to those efforts; and be it
6 further

7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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